

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 PA-04 EUR-25

NEA-14 NSC-07 NSCE-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: RFTYNER:WPBROWN:MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS - IRWIN PERNICK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 093974

TOSEC 360

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. FOLLOWING TWO KALB RADIO REPORTS WERE CARRIED TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 7:

A.(FIRST LINE REPORT FROM JERUSALEM): "IT IS ONLY THE APPEARANCE OF A BIG-POWER DEAL ON THE ME. KISSINGER'S AIDES SAY IT REALLY ISN'T THAT WAY THOUGH. EVER SINCE KISSINGER CONFERRED IN GENEVA WITH GROMYKO TWO WEEKENDS AGO OFFICIALS ON THE SECRETARY'S PLANE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR A KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING IN DAMASCUS OR IN THE AREA. NOT ONLY NO PLANS BUT NO INFORMATION EITHER ON WHETHER GROMYKO WAS COMING TO THE ME OR WHEN. WELL IT NOW TURNS OUT THAT THE SECRETARY AND THE FM ACTUALLY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR MEETING IN THE ME BACK IN GENEVA. GROMYKO PROPOSED THAT THE MEETING TAKE PLACE IN DAMASCUS. HE SUGGESTED TWO DATES EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW. KISSINGER ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF A MEETING BUT HE BALKED AT THE SITE. NEITHER DAMASCUS NOR JERUSALEM WAS ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE BOTH UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE REALLY BELLIGERENTS IN THE CURRENT STRUGGLE. KISSINGER FINALLY SUGGESTED CYRPUS, GROMYKO YIELDED. TODAY'S MEETING WAS ARRANGED, FINAL DETAILS WERE BEING NAILED DOWN AT THE VERY SAME TIME THE OFFICIALS WERE SAYING, THERE ARE NO

PLANS FOR A KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING, CREDIBILITY
ONCE AGAIN. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED AND IT
RAISED NO OBJECTION. HOW COULD IT HOLD OFF THE TWO BIG
POWERS IN ANY CASE.

WHEN THIS STORY WAS RELEASED TO NEWSMEN LATE YESTERDAY AM-
ERICAN OFFICIALS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO DENY THAT ANY
SUPER-POWER DEAL WAS IN THE WORKS. IT WAS LATER EXPLAINED
THAT THE RUSSIANS REALLY WANTED TO GET INTO THE DIPLOMATIC
ACTION AND THERE WAS LITTLE KISSINGER COULD DO TO DENY THEM
THEIR WISH. THEY PROPOSED THE MEETING IN GENEVA, THEY PRO-
POSED THIS CURRENT MEETING. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOLITE,
IT IS SAID, TO HAVE SAID NO. SO, IT WENT, YES, ON THE
ASSUMPTION THAT WITH THIS MEETING KISSINGER COULD BUY
SOVIET FOREBEARANCE AS HE CONTINUES TO PLUNGE AHEAD WITH
HIS WHIRLWIND EFFORT TO MID-WIFE A DISENGAGEMENT AGREE-
MENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. THE SECRETARY IS AWARE THAT
IF HE SAID NO, IT WAS ALWAYS IN RUSSIA'S POWER TO PUSH A
HARDLINE IN SYRIA AND FRUSTRATE HIS EFFORT.

IF THIS FRAMEWORK, IN FACT, REFLECTS THE SECRETARY'S JUDG-
MENT THEN THE CYPRUS MEETING IS A HIGH CLASS FORM OF WINDOW
DRESSING, BUTTERING UP THE RUSSIANS WHILE THE SECRETARY
HAS BEEN TRYING TO BUTTER UP THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS. IN
HIS MIND THE MEANS JUSTIFY THE ENDS. THAT LEAVES THE
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS STILL THE MAIN THING, THE APPLE
IN KISSINGER'S EYE. HE IS LEAVING TWO OF HIS TOP AIDES
HERE, ROY ATHERTON AND CARLYLE MAW, TO WORK WITH THE
ISRAELIS TODAY ON A NEW MAP WHICH KISSINGER CAN TAKE WITH
HIM AND PRESENT TO THE SYRIANS TOMORROW; WHEN ACCORDING
TO HIS CONSTANTLY CHANGING SCHEDULE HE GOES TO DAMASCUS.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IF ALL GOES WELL THE ISRAELIS WILL
COMPROMISE SUFFICIENTLY TO PRODUCE A MAP THE SYRIANS CAN
ACCEPT. SUCH A MAP MUST RELECT AN ISRAELI DECISION TO PULL
BACK FROM SOME OF THE LAND TAKEN DURING THE 1967 WAR, IN
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ADDITION TO ALL OF THE LAND OCCUPIED SINCE THE 1973 WAR
INCLUDING THE KEY DISTRICT TOWN OF KUNETRA. THIS IS A
TOUGH DECISION FOR PM MEIR'S CARETAKING CABINET TO MAKE.
ISRAELI SETTLERS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS REMIND MRS. MEIR
THAT IT WAS ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT SHE PROMISED NEVER TO
GIVE UP ANY OF THE LAND TAKEN DURING THE 1967 WAR, NOW
THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT SHE WILL OFFER TO RE-
LINQUISH SUCH TERRITORY IF ARRANGEMENT FOR ISRAELI SECURITY
CAN BE MADE. IT IS STILL A VERY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION."

B. (FROM NOCOSIA): "KISSINGER ARRIVED AND THEN CONFERRED
WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, POSED FOR THE SOVIET-AMERICAN

MEETING, AND THEN OPENED HIS DAY-LONG CONFERENCE WITH SOVIET FM GROMYKO AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. AMERICAN OFFICIALS ON HIS PLANE DENY THAT THERE IS NOW A SUPER-POWER PLAN FOR SETTLING ME PROBLEMS. KISSINGER STRIKES SOME OBSERVERS HERE AS A RELUCTANT PARTICIPANT AT THIS MEETING. IT WAS NOT HIS IDEA, IT WAS GROMYKO'S. HE DECLINED TO MEET THE SOVIET ENVOY IN AN ARAB CAPITAL, SO CYPRUS WAS SELECTED AS NEUTRAL TERRITORY AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR MEETING SUGGESTS MORE THAN THE REALITY OF IT -- THAT THE TWO DIPLOMATS HAD TO BE HERE TO DISCUSS SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN ADDITION TO THE ME, WHEN EVERYONE KNOWS THE RUSSIANS WANTED PART OF THE ACTION & THE CREDIT FOR A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL AND THAT IS THE REAL REASON FOR THE CYPRUS MEETING. KISSINGER AGREED TO ALL THIS, NOT BECAUSE HE IS SEEKING A SUPER-POWER FORMULA FOR DISENGAGEMENT BUT RATHER BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BRING THE RUSSIANS IN JUST ENOUGH SO THAT THEY DO NOT THEN DISRUPT WHAT HE PLANS TO DO ANYWAY. "

2. FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE BROADCAST MONDAY EVENING FROM JERUSALEM:

A. KALB (CBS-TV): "GROMYKO HAS BEEN IN DAMASCUS SINCE YESTERDAY CONFERRING WITH TOP SYRIAN LEADERS INCLUDING PRESIDENT ASAD. HE WANTED TO MEET THE SECRETARY IN DAMASCUS BUT KISSINGER REFUSED PERFERRING A MORE NEUTRAL MEETING. GROMYKO YIELDED, CYPRUS WAS SELECTED. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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RUSSIANS WANT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE CURRENT EFFORT TO DISENGAGE SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. KISSINGER WANTS TO GIVE THEM A VISIBLE BUT NOT A SUBSTANTIVE ROLE. WHEN HE ARRIVED IN ISRAEL IN LATE AFTERNOON THE SECRETARY WASTED LITTLE TIME. HE QUICKLY ENTERED TOP SECRET MEETINGS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS IN PM MEIR'S OFFICE, THE ISRAELIS STALLING ON A KEY DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM LAND OCCUPIED SINCE 1967 OR WAITING UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT FOR KISSINGER'S REPORT ON HIS TALKS WITH GROMYKO BEFORE MAKING THEIR FORMAL DECISION.

NO ONE HERE IS CONFIDENT THE RUSSIANS REALLY WANT TO HELP THE SECRETARY AND MANY ARE CONVINCED THEY WANT TO FRUSTRATE HIS EFFORT. AMERICAN OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH KISSINGER DENY CATEGORICALLY THAT TOMORROW'S MEETING IN CYPRUS WILL HATCH A BIG-POWER DEAL ON THE ME. DESPITE MANY SIGNS TO THE CONTRARY THEY INSIST KISSINGER WILL PROCEED IN HIS OWN WAY TO WORK OUT A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL."

B. VALERINAI (NBC-TV): "A HELICOPTER FLOWN BY KING HUSSEIN HIMSELF CARRIED THE KISSINGERS TO THE SECOND

CENTURY VILLAS IN THE FORUM IN THE ANCIENT ROMAN STRONGHOLD OF JERA. KISSINGER TOOK THIS SIGHTSEEING BREAK AFTER BRINGING HUSSEIN AND OTHER JORDANIAN LEADERS UP TO DATE ON HIS CURRENT PEACE MAKING MISSION. JORDANIAN SOURCES SAID HE LEFT UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD NOT WORK OUT A DISENGAGEMENT DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA THIS WEEK BUT HOPED FOR AN AGREEMENT ON A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING. AS USUAL KISSINGER WAS GIVEN A COLORFUL SENDOFF AT THE AIRPORT AFTER HIS RATHER RELAXED ENGAGEMENT IN JORDAN, AND THEN IT WAS BACK TO THE GRIND OF THE DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

KISSINGER RETURNED TO ISRAEL TO BE BRIEFED ON YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING AND THE REPORTS SUGGEST THE CABINET WAS RESISTING ANY FURTHER TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS ON THE CRUCIAL QUESTION OF WHERE THE LINE OF DISENGAGEMENT SHOULD BE DRAWN. AS KISSINGER WAS MEETING WITH ISRAELI LEADERS HERE IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD FLY TO CYPRUS

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TOMORROW TO CONFER WITH SOVIET FM GROMYKO. THE RUSSIANS ARE INSISTING ON A MORE VISIBLE ROLE IN THE PEACE TALKS AND THEY SUGGESTED A MEETING IN SYRIA BUT KISSINGER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO MEET IN A COUNTRY SO CLOSELY ALLIED WITH THE RUSSIANS. U.S. OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE NOT GETTING TOGETHER IN ORDER TO TRY TO FORCE ISRAEL AND SYRIA TO ACCEPT A BIG-POWER PLAN FOR DISENGAGEMENT. KISSINGER AND GROMYKO ALSO PLAN TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANNED VISIT TO MOSCOW NEXT MONTH, INCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON SALT. BUT THE TIMING OF THEIR MEETING MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE ME WILL BE THE NUMBER ONE TOPIC ON THE AGENDA."

C. KOPPEL (ABC-TV): "THE DAY BEGAN IN A LOW ENOUGH KEY. ALTHOUGH NEITHER THE SECRETARY NOR MRS. KISSINGER LIKES TO FLY ABOARD HELICOPTERS, JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN IS AN AVID AND EXPERT PILOT AND WITH HIS MAJESTY AT THE CONTROLS THE KISSINGERS WERE FLOWN TO THE ANCIENT GRECO-ROMAN CITY OF JERA. (AND) NO ONE REMINDED THE SECRETARY THAT FIGHTING WAS HEAVY ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS TODAY DESPITE PREDICTIONS OF A REDUCTION IN FIGHTING BY SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS LESS THAN TWO DAYS AGO. IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM. NORMALLY A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL BRIEFS NEWSMEN ABOARD THE SECRETARY'S PLANE. TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE WAS NO SUCH BRIEFING. NORMALLY SECRETARY KISSINGER MAKES AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT WHEN HE LANDS IN ISRAEL. TODAY THERE WAS NONE.

AS THE SECRETARY LEFT HIS HOTEL IN JERUSALEM TO MEET WITH PM MEIR A U.S. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCED THAT KISSINGER AND

SOVIET FM GROMYKO WILL BE MEETING TOMORROW ON CYPRUS. THE SOVIETS HAD WANTED THE MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN DAMASCUS. THE U.S. INSISTED ON NEUTRAL TERRITORY. THERE WOULD REALLY BE NO REASON FOR KISSINGER AND GROMYKO TO MEET TOMORROW ON CYPRUS IF EVERYTHING WAS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN. THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY ARE NOT BEING AS COOPERATIVE AS KISSINGER HAD HOPED AND THE VERY FACT THAT THE TWO MEN WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING MATTERS OF BI-LATERAL INTEREST TOMORROW, LIKE TRADE AND THE LIMITATION OF NUCLEAR STRATEGIC WEAPONS SUGGESTS THAT KISSINGER WILL BE TELLING

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GROMYKO THAT OVER-ALL U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS WILL SUFFER UNLESS MOSCOW COOPERATES IN BRINGING PEACE TO THE ME."

D. ANDERSON (GROUP W. NEWS): "HE WILL TAKE THESE IDEAS BACK TO DAMASCUS ON WEDNESDAY, BUT FIRST HE WILL MEET GROMYKO ON CYPRUS TO DISCUSS AMONG OTHER THINGS THE ME SITUATION. AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE CAREFUL TO SAY THAT THE GROMYKO-KISSINGER MEETING IS NOT THE BEGINNING OF A SOVIET-AMERICAN DEAL ON THE ME. KISSINGER IS WILLING TO KEEP THE SOVIETS IN CONTACT BUT HE DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE THEM PARTNERSHIP, BECAUSE THAT WOULD DESTROY HIS EFFECTIVENESS AS HONEST BROKER GOING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN TWO PARTIES, BOTH OF WHOM PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM.

THERE HAD BEEN SPECULATION THAT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING AFTER THEIR SESSIONS IN GENEVA ONE WEEK AGO, BUT U.S. OFFICIALS INSISTED THERE WAS NO MEETING PLANNED. THEN ONE OF THOSE RANDOM INCIDENTS OCCURED WHICH GAVE THE NEWSMEN ABOARD KISSINGER'S PLANE A TIP THAT SOMETHING WAS IN THE WORKS. WHILE KISSINGER'S PLANE WAS ON THE GROUND IN AMMAN A SOVIET PLANE LANDED NEARBY, APPARENTLY TO REFUEL AND FILE A FLIGHT PLAN. IT TOOK OFF AGAIN IMMEDIATELY AND NEWSMEN WAITING FOR KISSINGER WONDERED WHY NO PASSENGERS GOT ON OR OFF THE SOVIET AIRLINE PLANE. AN HOUR LATER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MEETING CAME OUT AND THE MYSTERY OF THE EMPTY SOVIET AIRLINER WAS SOLVED. IT WAS GROMYKO'S PLANE." RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE093974
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/PRS: RFTYNER:WPBROWN:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740110-0837
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740588/abbrzcsz.tel
Line Count: 260
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 OCT 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005